Amendments to the Specification:

Please substitute paragraphs 0017 and 0018 for the following amended paragraphs:

[0017] In accordance with an aspect of the present invention there is provided an apparatus for providing priority queuing to packets at a network device in a communications network, comprising: a decision engine, at the network device, for receiving packets from the communications network and queuing each of the packets into an available queue wherein n queues shall be available and [[n • 2]] $n \geq 2$, in dependence upon a source address of the packet; and a scheduler for de-queuing packets from the queues for transmission to the network device wherein packets from the queues are de-queued at different rates depending on a level of trust associated to the source addresses. The higher the trust in the addresses the higher the rate at which the packets are de-queued from the given queue.

[0018] In accordance with a second aspect of the present invention there is a method of providing priority queuing to selected packets at a network device in a communications network, the method comprising: receiving packets from the communications network in a decision module at the network device; queuing each of the packets into an available queue wherein n queues shall be available, [[n • 2]] $n \geq 2$, in dependence upon a source address of the packet; and de-queuing packets from the queues for transmission to the network

device wherein packets from the queues are de-queued at different rates depending on a level of trust associated with the source addresses. The higher the trust in the addresses, the higher the rate at which the packets are de-queued from the given queue.